

A2 9.(Amended) The method of claim 1, further including matching the mask to a carrier, the carrier having a carrier identification code, and storing the carrier identification code data as part of the mask data.

10.(Amended) The method of claim 1, further including tracking the mask movement from a material stocker, through a stepper and through an inspection tool while in a mask pod.

A3 13.(Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the mask data set further includes a tool identification code, generated when the mask arrives to a new tool location, that is stored in the computer means.

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is allowable over the cited references.

The above-referenced Office Action indicated that the disclosure stands objected to; claim 7 stands objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form; claims 6 and 8-10 stand objected to for informalities; claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; claims 1-15 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,684; claims 1-7 and 9-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by *Wiesler et al.* (US2001/0057222, the '222 publication); and claims 8 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the 222 publication in view of *Terao* (U.S. Patent No. 5,191,535). For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that the invention as now claimed is allowable over the cited references.

Applicant understands the objection to the specification to be informational only, as the Office Action indicated on page 2, with only appropriate correction required.

Claim 7 has been canceled; therefore, the objection and rejections thereof should be moot.